Proposal for Joint Ventures pending for approval

@3324. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects pending for approval with the Inter-Ministerial committee on joint ventures abroad;

(b) since how long these are pending and to which field each project belongs; and

(c) when these projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The details of projects pending before the Inter-Ministerial Committee are given below :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian Company	Field	Pending since
1.	M/s. REPL Engineering Ltd.	Heat Shrink Cables	22-2-93
2.	M/s. Saurashtra Cement & Chemical Industries Ltd.	Trading of Cement	26-2-93

(c) These applications would be decided within the time frame of 90 days stipulated in the Guidelines of Indian Direct Investment in overseas ventures.

Export of Processed Cashew Kernel

3325. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of processed cashew kernel has been declining over the recent years;

(b) if so, furnish details of the quantity produced and exported during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise;

(c) what are the details of measures that have been taken by Government in the recent past/proposed during the Eighth Five Year Plan period to increase the production and export of cashew;

(d) whether it is a fact that cashew industry is facing a serious crises; and

(e) if so, what are the details of steps being taken to pull out cashew industry out of the present crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Rough estimates of State-wise production of cashewnuts during the last three years are given below :

(In tonnes)

S.No.	State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1.	Kerala	139500	142100	143200
2.	Karnataka	24650	25770	26750
3.	Andhra Pradesh	36580	37770	40360
4.	Orissa	28600	29100	31840
5.	Maharasahtra	27130	29510	31960
6.	Goa	13210	14100	14490
7.	Tamil Nadu	12430	12470	124710
8.	West Bengal	3170	3440	3660
9.	Pondicherry	270	280	290
10.	Tripura	50	50	50
	Total	285590	294590	305310

(Source : Ministry of Agriculture).

@Previously Unstarred Question 2986, transferred from 18th March, 1993.

Details of export for cashew kernels are given below :—

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1989-90	45807	365.07
1990-91	49812	441.40
1991-92	64692	668.45

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta).

State-wise export figures of cashew kernels are not maintained.

(c) to (e) The most serious problems facing cashew industry are :

(i) indigenous production is not enough and the industry has to take recourse to substantial imports; and

(ii) low levels of productivity.

The Ministry of Agriculture has, therefore, taken in hand a programme for integrated development of cashewnut in India. Under this programme, measures such as area expension, distribution of improved planting material, pest control, popularisation of clonal cultivation, adoption of comprehensive technology to increase productivity of existing gardens, etc. The Ministry of Agriculture has allocated a sum of Rs. 30.00 crores for the integrated development of cashewnut in India during the Enghth Five Year Plan.

The exchange rate adjustments the introduction of unified exchange rate, simplification of pre-shipment inspection procedures are some of the steps taken by Government to increase exports. Apart from the above measures. Cashew Export Promotion Council of India participates in exhibitions abroad, arranges buyer seller meets to have interaction with importers in other countries and sponsors delegations to countries which have potential, for improving exports.

Illegal purchase of Tobacco

3326. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10 million Kgs. of FCV tobacco is being purchased outside the auction platforms of Tobacco Board, illegally, by traders, both in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the illegally purchased tobacco is being used in cigarette manufacturing to avoid payment of excise duty to the tune of several crores of rupees;

(c) if so, what is the number of cases booked by Tobacco Board against traders who indulged in such illegal transactions, both in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) what is the action taken against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Some instances have come to the notice of the Tobacco Board.

(b) There is no excise duty on raw tobacco.

(c) and (d) During 1990 Andhra auction season 10 cases were detected and during 1992 Karnataka auction season 7